

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 OMB-01 OPIC-03 XMB-02 SCCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 /090 W

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P R 261428Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4400

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USCISSEION NATO 1707

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5681

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, PINS

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 5606 DTG 231218Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: REMAINDER OF SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR SIXTH GOVERNMENT MAY BE ANNOUNCED TODAY, SEPT 26. SOCIALISTS ARE EXPECTED TO REINFORCE THEIR DOMINANT ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT, WHILE COMMUNISTS SETTLE FOR MINOR POSITIONS. AUTOMOBILE TRANSPORTING SEVERAL BOMBS EXPLODED IN LISBON LAST NIGHT KILLING VEHICLE'S OCCUPANTS. BOMB MAY HAVE BEEN RIGHT-WING ATTEMPT ON PORTUGUESE RADIO TELEVISION TRANSMITTERS. FM TRANSMITTERS FOR MUCH OF
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COUNTRY WERE SHUT DOWN AFTERNOON OF SEPT 25 ON ORDERS FROM ABOVE --

POSSIBLY RELATED TO TAKEOVER OF EMISSORA NACIONAL BY DISABLED VETERANS. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION: FINAL GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 20 SECRETARIES OF STATE, TOGETHER WITH ELEVEN NAMED SEPT 23, MAY BE SWORN IN THIS EVENING (SEPT 26). NEGOTIATIONS OVER FINAL APPORTIONMENT AMONG PARTIES ARE CONTINUING THIS MORNING. PS MAY GET AS MANY AS 14, OR ALMOST HALF OF SUB-CABINET PORTFOLIOS, BUT EXACT NUMBERS ARE STILL NOT KNOWN.

2. UPSURGE IN VIOLENCE:

-- AUTOMOBILE EXPLODED IN LISBON'S MONSANTO PARK AT 11 P.M., SEPT 25, KILLING TWO PEOPLE IN VEHICLE. ONE-KILO PLASTIC BOMB WITH TIMING DEVICE ATTACHED WAS FOUND AMONG REMAINS. POLICE INVESTIGATORS BELIEVE BOMB WAS BEING CARRIED IN AUTO WHEN IT INADVERTENTLY EXPLODED. MADRID ADDRESS WAS FOUND IN WALLET OF ONE OF OCCUPANTS.

-- THE LISBON FM RE-TRANSMITTER OF EMISSORA NACIONAL (EN), WHICH COVERS MUCH OF THE COUNTRY, SHUT DOWN ON SEPT 25, CAUSING SOME NERVOUSNESS IN LISBON. TECHNICIANS REPLIED TO INQUIRIES THAT THE SHUTDOWN HAD BEEN ORDERED "FROM ABOVE." FM TRANSMISSION RESUMED MORNING OF SEPT 26.

-- FOUR MEMBERS OF THE MRPP WERE WOUNDED BY ARMED PCP MEMBERS EVENING OF SEPT 24 IN CLASH WHICH BEGAN AS A BATTLE OF INSULTS WHILE POSTING RIVAL POSTERS.

-- BOMB EXPLODED SEPT 24 OUTSIDE PCP HEADQUARTERS IN VIERA DO MINHO, SMASHING WINDOWS BUT CAUSING NO SERIOUS DAMAGES.

3. COMMENT: THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS TAKING SHAPE, DESPITE INCIDENTS OF MILITARY INDISCIPLINE (SEPTTEL), AND CONTINUING VIOLENCE. THE GROUND RULES FOR THE SIXTH GOVERNMENT ARE HOLDING, WITH THE SOCIALISTS PLAYING THE DOMINANT ROLE, AND THE COMMUNISTS BARGAINING HARD BUT WILLING TO SETTLE FOR ONLY A MINOR ROLE. MEANWHILE, COMMUNISTS ARE QUIETLY BUT ACTIVELY HELPING TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

4. THE BOMB WHICH EXPLODED IN MONSANTO PARK MAY HAVE BEEN DESTINED FOR PORTUGUESE RADIO AND TELEVISION (RTP) WHOSE TRANSMITTERS ARE LOCATED IN THE PARK. THE TERRORISTS WERE PROBABLY FROM THE FAR RIGHT, SUCH AS ELP, BUT A LEFT-WING PROVOCATION
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CANNOT BE RULED OUT. THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE BOMB GREATLY COMPLICATES THE WORK OF POLICE INVESTIGATORS.

5. THE SHUTDOWN OF FM TRANSMITTERS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DELIBERATE AND NOT A MECHANICAL FAILURE, AND COULD BE RELATED TO DISRUPTIONS RESULTING FROM EARLIER OCCUPATION OF EN BY DISABLED VETERANS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON05681
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750334-0983
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750910/aaaaairo.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 5606
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006